Amendments to the Claims:

1.   (Previously Amended)   In a network having software implementations deployed therein, a method for determining a set of software implementations to deploy to a client, comprising, maintaining precedence information at a network location indicative of precedence relationships between software implementations, selecting a software implementation that is specified for deployment to the client as a selected software implementation, determining from the precedence information whether the selected software implementation has precedence over at least one other software implementation that is also specified for deployment to the client, and if so, setting the selected software implementation for deployment and deselecting the at least one other software implementation.

2.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein setting the selected software implementation for deployment comprises setting the selected software implementation for install.

3.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 2 wherein setting the selected software implementation for install comprises including the software implementation in a list of software implementations to install.

4.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 further comprising installing the selected software implementation.

5.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 further comprising advertising the selected software implementation as available to the user for execution on a computer system prior to actual installation of the software implementation on the computer system.

6.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein deselecting comprises setting the at least one other software implementation for uninstall.

7.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 further comprising uninstalling the at least one other software implementation.

8.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein deselecting comprises removing the at least one other software implementation from the set of software implementations to deploy.

9.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the precedence information indicative of precedence relationships between software implementations is maintained in a class store of the network.

10. (Original)   The method of claim 8 wherein the class store is associated with a group policy object provided for the client.

11. (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the precedence information indicative of precedence relationships between software implementations is maintained in property values for the software implementations.

12. (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the precedence information indicative of precedence relationships between software implementations includes a property value indicative of whether to replace or overlay another software implementation.

13. (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the client is a user, and wherein selecting a software implementation as a selected software implementation automatically occurs as part of a user logon.

14. (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the client is a user, and wherein selecting a software implementation as a selected software implementation occurs in response to a user request.

15. (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein the client is a machine, and wherein selecting a software implementation as a selected

software implementation automatically occurs when the machine connects to the network.

16.   (Previously Amended)   A method for implementing a lifecycle for software implementations deployed in a network, comprising, maintaining policy information at a network location including software implementations to deploy to groups of clients and precedence relationships between the software implementations, receiving at least one request to deploy a plurality of software implementations to a client of a particular group, locating the policy information corresponding to the group, and determining from the policy information which one of the plurality of software implementations to apply to the client and which software implementation or implementations to not apply to the client based on the precedence relationships.

17.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 16 wherein determining which one of the plurality of software implementations to apply to the client comprises setting a first software implementation for install when the first software implementation has precedence over a second software implementation.

18.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 17 further comprising installing the first software implementation.

19.   (Original)   The method of claim 18 wherein the installation is mandatory.

20.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 18 wherein the client is a user, and wherein installing the first software implementation is optional for that user.

21.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 16 wherein determining which one of the plurality of software implementations to apply to the client comprises removing a first software implementation from a list of software implementations to install when a second software implementation has precedence over the first software implementation.

22.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 21 further comprising installing the second software implementation, wherein installing the second software implementation overlays the first software implementation.

23.   (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 16 wherein determining which one of the plurality of software implementations to apply to the client comprises setting a first software implementation for uninstall when a second software implementation has precedence over the second software implementation.

24. (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 23 further comprising uninstalling the first software implementation and installing the second software implementation.

25. (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 16 further comprising specifying the precedence relationships for the groups of clients.

26. (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 25 wherein specifying the precedence relationships for the groups of clients comprises specifying a pilot group of clients that is small relative to a total number of clients of the network.

27. (Previously Amended)   The method of claim 26 wherein specifying the precedence relationships for the groups of clients comprises specifying a rollout group of clients that is relatively larger than the pilot group and smaller than the total number of clients of the network.

28. (Previously Added) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

29. (Previously Added) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 16.

30.   (Previously Added) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

maintaining first data specifying that a first software implementation is

desired to be deployed to a client;

maintaining second data specifying that a second software implementation

is desired to be deployed to the client;

maintaining precedence information specifying a precedence relationship

between the first software implementation and the second software

implementation; and

accessing the first data, second data and precedence information to

deploy the first software implementation to the client and not deploy the second

software implementation to the client, based on the precedence information.

31.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein the first

software implementation is deployed to the client by installing the first software

implementation on a computer system associated with the client.

32.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein the first

software implementation is deployed to the client by including the software

implementation in a list of software implementations to install on a computer

system associated with the client.

33.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein the first

software implementation is deployed to the client by advertising the selected

software implementation as available to the user for execution on a computer

system prior to actual installation of the software implementation on the computer

system.

34.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 further comprising

uninstalling the second software implementation.

35.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 further comprising

installing the first software implementation and uninstalling the second software

implementation.

36.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 further comprising

overlaying the second software implementation while installing the first software

implementation.

37.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein the first data,

second data and precedence information is accessed in response to a user

logon.

38.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein the first data,

second data and precedence information is accessed in response to a user

request.

39.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein the first data, second data and precedence information is accessed in response to a machine connecting to a network.

40.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 further comprising specifying the precedence information for a group of clients.

41.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 40 wherein specifying the precedence information comprises selecting as the group of clients a pilot group that is small relative to a total number of clients of a network.

42.   (Previously Added) The method of claim 41 wherein specifying the precedence information comprises selecting as the group of clients a rollout group of clients that is relatively larger than the pilot group and relatively smaller than the total number of clients of the network.

43.   (Previously Added) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 30.

44.   (New) A computer-implemented method for determining a set of software implementations to deploy to a client, comprising:

maintaining precedence information specifying a precedence relationship between software implementations designated for deployment to the client;

accessing the precedence information to determine which software

implementation to select for deployment to the client;

determining from the specified precedence relationship that one software

implementation has precedence over at least one other software implementation

that is also designated for deployment to the client; and

selecting the software implementation that has precedence over the other

software implementation that is also designated for deployment to the client.

45.   (New) The method of claim 44 further comprising advertising the

selected software implementation as available to the user for execution on the

client prior to actual installation of the software implementation on the client.

46.   (New) The method of claim 44 further comprising installing the

selected software implementation on the client.

47.   (New) The method of claim 44 further comprising uninstalling the

other software implementation from the client.

48.   (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the precedence information

specifying a precedence relationship between software implementations

comprises precedence information specifying the precedence relationship

between software implementations for a group of clients.

49. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 44.